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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

A SELF-HELP PROGRAM TO
RID YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
OF BURGLARIES

HOW?

- KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS
- RECORD DESCRIPTION OF SUSPICIOUS PERSONS AND CAR LICENSE NUMBERS
- BURN A LIGHT AT NIGHT
- HAVE TOUGH OUTSIDE LOCKS AND USE THEM
- WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE AWAY:
 - TELL YOUR NEIGHBOR
 - STOP DELIVERIES
 - NOTIFY POLICE





The Citizens Neighborhood Watch is total citizen participation and involvement in a self-help cooperative battle against burglaries, its primary purpose being the protection of **your** property.

In the two year period of 1979-1980 Santa Marians suffered 2463 burglaries at a dollar loss of over \$1,000,000 dollars. This averages out to an over \$400.00 dollar loss per burglary. One out of every 16 Santa Marians was a burglary victim. Burglary is truly Santa Maria's number one crime problem.

Make the effort! Become acquainted with your neighbors. Discuss Neighborhood Watch with them. If you know they are away and you see an obvious invitation to a burglar, correct it. Close the open garage door, remove the accumulation of newspapers from the door stoop. Why not be friendly?

Brightly colored window and bumper stickers have been designed for the Neighborhood Watch Campaign. Use of these stickers should warn potential burglars that they are in an alert neighborhood and that their chances of

being observed and apprehended have increased. Window stickers should be prominently displayed on the front door or in a window facing the street.

- Be suspicious of that man you have never seen before. The unauthorized candy seller or the teenager selling newspaper and magazine subscriptions may use an unanswered doorbell as the opportunity to enter an unsecured home. Keep an eye on all strangers while they are in your neighborhood (54% of all burglaries are committed by youths under 18).

- That person (young or old) "taking a short cut" through your backyard may have broken into your neighbor's home. **CALL THE POLICE!** Don't assume someone else has called (Emergency phone number stickers are available from your nearest Police station).

- At night, burglars hide. Trim shrubbery near doors and windows to prohibit concealment. Install front and backyard lights and use them.

- Know your neighbors and their cars by sight. Obtain their phone numbers; give them yours.

- Write down license numbers and descriptions of strange cars. That moving van may not have been ordered by your neighbor.

- Lock all doors and windows — even in summer. Many daytime apartment burglaries are committed by the use of a "shim." Installation of dead bolt door locks curtails this type of entry. Place a broom handle in the lower track of sliding doors.

- Leave a radio playing and different lights burning every time you go out at night. An inexpensive timing device is helpful. Phone your neighbor; inform him when you leave and when you expect to return to your residence.

- Padlock the garage door, especially if it is attached to the house. Why hide a burglar who's breaking into your home?



- Don't advertise that you're on vacation. Cancel all home deliveries of newspapers, milk, etc.; pick up tools, lock the garage and gates, and don't provide a means for entry to a burglar.
- Leave a key with your neighbor; don't put a key under your door mat. Ask him to pick up your mail. Change position of your blinds and drapes daily.
- Record the description and serial number of your property. Mark articles that do not have serial numbers. Stolen articles that lack positive identification marks are seldom returned to their owners.
- Notify your police station of your vacation dates. Request them to make periodic checks of your home during your absence.
- If you have reason to believe that a burglary was committed while you were away, **DO NOT ENTER!** Use your neighbor's phone and call the police **IMMEDIATELY.** The burglar may still be there. Watch the house, and wait for the police.

- Help your neighbor. Barking dogs could mean prowlers. Look and listen!
- Was that light a beam from a flashlight? You may see it only once. If you know your neighbor is away, call the police.
- Take that extra minute or two to check your home before leaving. A few months' salary can be taken from your home in seconds.
- **NEVER GIVE A BURGLAR AN EVEN BREAK!**

SANTA MARIA



POLICE DEPARTMENT
Emergency — Call 911
Business — Call 928-3781